

An Overview of Language and Cognitive Development: 1 month to 12 years.

Age	Communication	Cognition	Socialization
1 month	Responds to human voice, which usually has quieting effect. Cries for assistance. Makes pleasure sounds.	Cries form distress. Prefers visual patterns. Remembers an object that reappears within 2.5 seconds.	Establishes eye contact with mother. Quiets when held; adjusts body to person holding. Follows own sleep schedule. Smiles spontaneously.
2 month	Distinguishes different (speech) sounds. Makes more guttural or throaty going.	Visually prefers face to objects regards own hands, and follow in a circle. Repeats own actions. Excites in anticipation of objects.	Excites when sees people; has unselective social smile. Quiets self with sucking. Prefers touch and oral stimulation to social stimulation. Sleeps on schedule closer to rest of household.
3 month	Coos single syllables (consonant-vowel). Turns head when hears a voice. Responds vocally to speech of others. Makes predominately vowel sounds.	Attains full focus; can glance smoothly between objects. Visually searches for sounds. Begins exploratory play; explores own body.	Exhibits gregarious behavior. Visually discriminates different people and things; recognizes mother. Has selective social smile. Sleeps most of the night.
4 month	Babbles strings of consonants. Varies pitch. Imitates tones. Smiles at person speaking to him.	Localizes to sound. Stares at place from which object is dropped. Remembers visually for 5-7 seconds.	Pays selective attention to faces; prefers joyful to angry. Looks in direction of person leaving room. Smiles at notice of another baby. Anticipates being lifted; laughs when played with.
5 month	Vocalizes to toys. Discriminates angry and friendly voices. Experiments with sounds. Imitates some sounds. Smiles and vocalizes in mirror.	Begins to play. Visually follows a vanishing object; recognizes familiar objects; anticipates whole object after seeing a part; 3-hour visual memory. Explores objects by mouthing and touching. Remembers own actions in immediate past.	Reacts differently to smiling and scolding. Discriminates parents and siblings form others. Imitates some movements of others. Frolics when played with.
6 month	Varies volume, pitch, and rate. Vocalizes pleasure and displeasure.	Looks and reaches smoothly and quickly. Inspects objects. Reaches to grab dropped objects.	Differentiates social responses. Prefers people games, such as "peek-a-boo". Feeds self finger food. Explores face of person holding him.
7 month	Plays vocally. Produces several sounds in one breath. Listens to vocalization of others.	Visually searches briefly for toy that disappears. Imitates a physicals act if in repertoire.	Resists. Teases (beginning of humor).
8 month	Listens selectively. Recognizes some words. Repeats emphasized syllable.	Can store color and form separately; recognizes object dimensions.	Acts positively toward peers. Is clearly attached to mother. Shouts for attention.

8 month cont.	Imitates gestures and tonal quality of adult speech; echolalia.	Prefers novel and relatively complex toys. Explores shape, weight, texture, function, and properties (example: in/out).	
9 month	Produces distinct intonation patterns. Imitates cough, hisses, tongue clicks, raspberries, etc. Uses social gestures. Uses jargon.	Recognizes object dimensions. Uncovers objects if observes act of hiding first. Anticipates outcome of events and return of persons.	Explores other babies. “Performs” for family. Imitates play. Plays action games.
10 month	Imitates adult speech if sound sin repertoire. Obeys some commands.	Points to body parts. Attains a goal with trial-and-error approach. Searches for hidden objects but usually in a familiar place.	Displays moods. Helps dress and feed self.
11 month	Imitates inflections, rhythms, facial expressions, etc.	Imitates increasingly. Associates properties with objects.	Seeks approval. Anticipates mother’s goal and tries to change it by protest or “persuasion”.
12 month	Recognizes own name. Follows simple motor instructions, especially if accompanied by a visual cue (“bye-bye”). Reacts to no intonation. Speaks one or more words. Practices words he knows and inflection; mixes words and jargon.	Can reach while looking away. Uses common objects appropriately. Searches in location where an object was last seen. Imitates an absent mode.	Expresses people preferences. Expresses many different emotions.
15 month	Points to clothes, persons, toys, and animal named. Uses jargon and words in conversation. Has 4-6 word vocabulary.	Imitates small motor acts.	Looks for adults when left alone. Plays in solitary manner. Begins make-believe play. Likes music and dancing.
18 month	Begins to use two-word utterances. Has approximately 20-word vocabulary. Identifies some body parts. Refers to self by name. “Sings” and hums spontaneously. Plays question-answer with adults.	Recognizes pictures. Recognizes self in mirror. Remembers places where objects are usually located. Uses a stick as a toy. Imitates adult object use.	Explores reactions of others; tests others. Enjoys solitary play; engages in increased cooperative play form here on. Pretends to feed doll.
21 month	Likes rhyming games. Pulls person to show something. Tries to “tell” experiences. Understands some personal pronouns. Uses <i>I</i> and <i>mine</i> .	Knows shapes. Sits alone for short periods with book. Notices little objects and small sounds.	Hugs spontaneously. Plays near but not with other kids. Likes toy telephone, doll and truck for play.

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